Cases pending with PRC

1660. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending with the Policy Relaxation Committee for disposal;

(b) whether it is a fact that many cases are pending for more than six months for action;

(c) whether it is also a fact that PRC has not been held for more than two months; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such long delays and what steps are being taken to expedite matters and save the exporters from harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d) Paragraph 4.14 of the Exim Policy provides for relaxation of the provisions of the policy or any of the procedure on the ground that there is genuine hardship to the applicant or that a strict application of the policy or the procedure is likely to have an adverse impact on trade. As can be seen from the provision, this is a provision to be used only in exceptional cases with due prudence and circumspection. To exercise the power provided under this provision, Director General of Foreign Trade is to consult Policy Relaxation Committee (PRC).

The last meeting of the PRC was held on 11.2.2002, and the committee considered all the cases presented before it as on the date. Subsequently 16 cases have been received. During this financial year the committee has met sixteen times.